Resentment against NCERT curriculum

5106. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Educational Research and Training has recently published a national curriculum for school education;

(b) if so, the main contents thereof;

(c) whether there is a lot of resentment in the academic circles who view this as a deliberate attempt to saffronise education; and

(d) the steps proposed to remove the suspicion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL):(a) to (d) As a follow up of the Naitonal Policy on Education, the NCERT has recently prepared a Discussion Document on the National Curriculum Framework for School Education and released it in January, 2000 for public debates. This document is being discussed and debated at National and State levels. After receiving feedback on the Discussion document, NCERT will release the Curriculum Framework as a model to all States.

Effect of quality of education on society

5107. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned "Not a paltry thing, which appeared in The times of India dated 10th February, 2000;

(b) whether quality of education is the biggest stumbling block and the gaps between the rich and poor, men and women, powerful and powerless, have further widened for a very long time; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in the direction of changing the mindset of masses, especially towards the education of girl child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992, provides for a National System of Education which implies that up to a given level, all students, irrespective of caste, creed, location or sex, have access to education of a comparable quality. It includes a common educational structure, a national curricular framework and Minimum levels of learning for each stage of education. The NPE also envisages separate and special provisions for education of women and other disadvantaged sections of the society.

Concerns regarding quality and equity in educaiton are continuously addressed by Central and State Governments through appropriate interventions. measures to promote education of girls include separate schools for girls, exemption from tuition and other fees, incentives such as free textbooks, stationery and uniforms, scholarships, etc. Under the Total literacy Compaign and District Primary Educaiton programme special efforts are made for awareness generation and mass mobilisation for education of the disadvantaged sections of society, especially girls and women.

Distortion of facts and history in the text books of U.P.

5108. SHRIVAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pelased to state:

(a) whether NCERT is entrusted with them formulation of syllabus for the school education;

(b) if so, the details there of;

(c) whether Government are aware of the reports of distortion of facts and history in the text books of the schools of U.P.; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to correct such distortions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL): (a) and (b) NCERT has initiated a process of renewal of the National Curriculum Framework. The NCERT has brought out a "Disussion Document' on the "National Curriculum Framework for